

Basic Education Enhancements in HB 2261:

- Increase in instructional hours
- Increase in graduation requirements

Office of Financial Management
House Office of Program Research
Senate Committee Services
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INCREASE MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL OFFERINGS TO 1,080 HOURS IN GRADES 7 THROUGH 12

Current Instructional Hour Requirement

RCW 28A.150.220:

Each district is required to provide a minimum instructional offering each year of a district-wide average of one thousand hours for students enrolled in grades one through twelve

Current Instructional Hour Requirement

- Districts annually certify to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction that they meet the statutory requirement of a K-12 average of at least 1,000 hours of instruction
- State funding formulas do not fund specified hours of instruction in the regular apportionment program—the state funds staff positions, based on student enrollment, not hours
- Districts are not required to report instructional hours to OSPI--in total, or by grade level

Future Instructional Hour Requirement

ESHB 2261 amended RCW 28A.150.220:

- Retain the minimum instructional offering each year of one thousand hours for students enrolled in grades one through six; and
- Increase the minimum instructional hours to one thousand eighty hours for students in grades seven through twelve;
- In ESHB 2261, both requirements “according to an implementation schedule adopted by the legislature”

The legislature has not adopted an implementation schedule. However, the 2011 legislature added the statutory requirement that implementation is to occur “not before the 2014-15 school year.”

How many instructional hours do students receive now?

- OSPI surveyed districts last year, asking about instructional hours at the elementary, middle and high school level
 - 106 of 295 districts responded

How many instructional hours do students receive now?

Reported Annual Instructional Hours				
106 of 295 Districts Responding to OSPI Survey (2011-12 SY)				
	K*	Elementary	Middle	High School
Survey Average	516	1,045	1,074	1,076
<i>High</i>	<i>976</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>1,466</i>
<i>Low</i>	<i>451</i>	<i>885</i>	<i>976</i>	<i>972</i>
* Some districts included kindergarten hours in Elementary category				

Cost to Increase Instructional Hours?

The potential cost of increasing minimum instructional hours under ESHB 2261 depends on a series of assumptions...

Cost to Increase Instructional Hours?

A first question might be:
“What is the goal?”

Cost to Increase Instructional Hours?

Depending on the legislative goal, a next question is:

“The cost to whom?”

Cost to Increase Instructional Hours?

Potential local costs:

Depending on local collective bargaining agreements and other district decisions, there may be local district costs tied to increases in instructional hours for those districts not already offering the minimums required under ESHB 2261.

Cost to Increase Instructional Hours?

Potential state costs:

- In terms of its funding formulas, the legislature has options and choices with regard to whether and how to recognize and fund potential state obligations under the instructional hour requirements of ESHB 2261.
- A range of potential annual costs:
\$0 to over \$200 million per year

Cost to Increase Instructional Hours?

State funding formula caveats:

- Since the state formulas do not fund time, some surrogate mechanism must be used to model cost.
- When the Task Force gets to the point of building options and recommendations, there are different ways (each with pros and cons) to construct funding formulas to accomplish a funding increase to recognize additional instructional time.
- We can frame a range of potential costs today, however.

State Cost Range: Increase in Minimum Instructional Hours

No State-Cost Option

Assumptions:

- State funding formulas provide funds for certificated staff *positions* and associated costs; there is no state funding formula for hours of instruction
- Survey data indicate many districts meet and exceed the ESHB 2261 minimums currently
- Separate and distinct from its funding allocations, the state can and does set minimum requirements of school districts, in this case instructional hours

State Cost Range: Increase in Minimum Instructional Hours

Increase Funding for Certificated Instructional Staff in State Formulas (Cost: \$126 million per year)

Assumptions:

- A change from 1,000 to 1,080 hours is an 8% increase in minimum instructional offering
- Increase state funding allocations for certificated staff in grades 7 through 12 by 8% to recognize the increase in minimum instructional time
- Increase in instructional time is accomplished in a manner that minimizes non-certificated staff costs, administrative costs, and other categorical program costs

State Cost Range: Increase in Minimum Instructional Hours

Increase Regular Education Program Funding Formulas Across the Board (Grades 7-12) (Cost: \$209 million per year)

Assumptions:

- A change from 1,000 to 1,080 hours is an 8% increase in minimum instructional offering
- Increase state funding formula allocations by 8% to recognize the increase in minimum instructional time in grades 7-12
- Increase in instructional time is accompanied by corresponding increases in classified and administrative staffing, as well as maintenance, supplies and operating costs (MSOC).

DISTRICTS PROVIDE STUDENTS THE
OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE 24 CREDITS
FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

24 Credit Graduation Requirement

ESHB 2261 amended RCW 28A.150.220, adding:

“ The instructional program of basic education provided by each school district shall include:

(a) Instruction in the essential academic learning requirements under RCW 28A.655.070;

(b) *Instruction that provides students the opportunity to complete twenty-four credits for high school graduation, subject to a phased-in implementation of the twenty-four credits as established by the legislature. Course distribution requirements may be established by the state board of education under RCW 28A.230.090”*

State Board of Education Authority

RCW 28A.230.090 authorizes the State Board of Education to establish high school graduation requirements, subject to the following:

“ Changes that have a fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted legislation.”

Cost of Implementation of 24 Credit Graduation Requirement

OSPI conducted an analysis of the 24 credit graduation requirement proposed by the State Board of Education. They found two operating costs:

1. Additional Instructional Time

-- \$35.8 million per year

2. Additional Instructional Materials*

--\$1.3 million first-year start-up cost, and

--\$0.2 million per year ongoing

*Materials costs will be dependent on the mix of subject area requirements proposed

Cost of Additional Instructional Time

- Additional credit requirements will create additional student FTE costs to the state. Added student FTE is comprised of students who currently do not take a full 24 credits and those who are recovering credit
- Assumptions:
 - Net funded student FTE increases in senior year, through running start and/or through skill centers.
 - Total of 8% increase in FTE assumed with 60% of that increase (4.7% of student population) represents students who will take one or two classes with the other 40% (3.3% of student population) representing students who will take between three and five classes.
 - Students will not begin accessing the additional FTE until their junior or senior years

Cost of Additional Instructional Materials

- Where requirements are increased, additional instructional materials are likely to be needed by school districts
- Assumptions:
 - OSPI assumed a state responsibility for the cost of newly required textbooks. Specific course requirements will impact needs and costs
 - OSPI based costs on textbook survey data and the SBE-proposed course requirement changes
 - Ongoing costs are for MSOC replacement of textbooks on a six year cycle